

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-9, 16-18 and 29-31 were rejected. Also, claims 10-15 and 19-28 were objected to. By the present Response, claims 1-2, 7-9, 15-16, 18-20, 23, 29 are amended, claim 10 is canceled, and new claims 32-35 are added. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-9, 11-35 will remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Griffin, Jr. et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,675,0171), and claims 29-31 as being anticipated by Holle et al. (U.S. 2004/0150384).

Legal Precedent

A prima facie case of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires a showing that each limitation of a claim is found in a single reference, practice or device. *In re Donohue*, 226 U.S.P.Q. 619, 621 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

Omitted Features of Independent Claims 1, 9, 16, and 29

Turning now to the claims, independent claim 1 recites “a voltage detection system *in an enclosure... output derived from a truth table* such that a first signal is provided for opening the *enclosure*” (emphasis added). The Griffin, Jr. et al. reference is generally directed towards a power quality utility metering system. Col 4 lines 42-49. Further, the Griffin et al. reference teaches a power utility meter which contains an analog sensor circuit 51, configured to acquire line voltage data and line current data from utility power lines. Col. 8, lines 35-47. The digital signal processing circuit 45 is connected to a microprocessor 48, which generates metering data of energy consumed by a customer. Col. 8, lines 48-65; *See* Fig 3. The reference, however, fails to disclose a voltage verification system which utilizes a truth table and which outputs and indication of

voltage status inside and outside the enclosure at a plurality of locations, as recited in claim 1.

Claim 9 recites “*a switch electrically coupled to the electrical connection point; a voltage verification system operable to detect voltage at a location upstream of the electrical connection point and at a location downstream of the switch*” (emphasis added). The Griffin Jr. et al. describes power distribution analyzing systems, such as power metering systems that measure power consumed by residential customers. Col 1, lines 34-59. Further, the Griffin Jr. et al. reference relates to improved techniques suited to measure power more accurately due to disturbances and voltage imbalances in the power delivery system. Col 16, lines 16-49. *See* Fig 1B. The reference fails to disclose an electrical device connected to an electrical verification system at a connection point containing a switch. The reference also fails to disclose a voltage verification system that is operable to detect voltage upstream the connection point and downstream such a switch. Further, the reference fails to disclose a voltage verification system capable of providing a positive indication that no voltage is present upstream of the connection point, or downstream the switch.

Further, independent claim 16 recites “an electrical device housed within the *enclosure* and electrically coupled to a power line through the *enclosure*...voltage verification system is operable to process the digital signals to produce an output based on a *truth table defining possible states of line voltages*” (emphasis added). The Griffin Jr. et al. reference teaches a revenue meter 40 in a housing 40a that is configured to connect the external power lines to the meter 40. Col 6, lines 55-61; *See* Fig. 4. However, the reference fails to disclose the conditions for when it is appropriate or not appropriate to open the electrical enclosure, which is connected to external power lines.

Claim 29 recites viewing an indication that “no hazardous voltages are present within the electrical device, this indication being generated based upon voltages sensed

within the device and a *truth table* of possible states of the voltages” (emphasis added). The Holle et al. reference generally relates to service disconnect switches comprising a mounting device that enables the separation of the current blades of the meter from a power line source. Page 6, paragraph 0061. *See* Fig 2. Holle et al. teach a service disconnect switch coupled to a driver circuit. Page 9 paragraph 0092. Further, the Holle et al. reference describes an indicator illuminated whenever a technician actuates a disconnect switch. Page 13, paragraph 0141. The reference, however, fails to disclose that indication of hazardous voltages present is generated by a truth table of possible voltage states upstream the connection point of the device and the voltage verification system, and downstream the switch.

In view of these deficiencies, the cited references, taken alone or in combination, cannot anticipate independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 31.

Additionally, claims 2-8, 11-15, 17-28, and 30-31 each depend from one of independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 31. Applicants respectfully contend that these claims are allowable based on their dependency from an allowable independent claim, as well as for the subject matter separately recited by each of these dependant claims. Applicants, therefore, also respectfully request allowance of these dependant claims. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and allowance of these claims.

New Claims

New claims 32-35 have been added by this response. These new claims add no new matter and are fully supported throughout the specification. Notably, independent claim 32 recites a method for accessing the interior of an electrical device, comprising “generating an output signal based *upon a truth table* of possible states of the input voltage and voltage at the plurality of locations.” (emphasis added). For reasons


including those provided above with respect to independent claim 1, claims 32-35 are patentable over the cited references and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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